

# LONDON *notebook*

■ SHOPPING ■ DINING ■ ARTS ■ THINGS TO DO ■ PLACES TO STAY



## THREE OF THE BEST... *Exhibitions*

### CHELSEA ART FAIR

Chelsea Old Town Hall,  
SW3 5EE, 07961 371961,  
[chelseaartfair.org](http://chelseaartfair.org).

See work by artists from more than 40 UK galleries, including Janet Golphin at the Russell Gallery (top right). 10-13 April; £6.

### FASHION & GARDENS

Garden Museum, Lambeth  
Palace Road, SE1 7LB, 020 7401  
8865, [gardenmuseum.org.uk](http://gardenmuseum.org.uk).

Tracing their relationship through the years from the Elizabethan age (17th-century embroidered gloves, above right) to this year's London Fashion Week. Until 27 April; £7.50.

### USEFUL + BEAUTIFUL: CONTEMPORARY DESIGN FOR THE HOME

The Geffrye Museum of the Home, 136 Kingsland Road,  
E2 8EA, 020 7739 9893,  
[geffrye-museum.org.uk](http://geffrye-museum.org.uk).

A glimpse into the future, with the latest designs in furniture (Barber Osgerby's Tip Ton chair, above left), textiles, technology and lighting. 29 April to 25 August; free entry.



## STATESIDE STYLE

From humble beginnings nearly a century ago as a Connecticut plumbing supply business, Waterworks has expanded to make a splash in the USA with its blend of classic style and cutting-edge technology. Now its smart sanitaryware is available in the UK. Head to the London showroom to see a range of styles, including cast-iron and copper baths and textured brickwork surfaces.

Waterworks,  
579/581 Kings Road, SW6 2EH,  
[waterworks.com](http://waterworks.com).



**SECRET GARDEN** If you long to escape the capital's commotion, this useful book offers dozens of peaceful green spaces, from the gardens of Chiswick House to Elephant and Castle's little known Urban Forest, each ideal for a swift retreat.

LONDON OUT OF SIGHT, £9.95, BLACK DOG PUBLISHING, 020 7713 5097, [BLACKDOGONLINE.COM](http://BLACKDOGONLINE.COM).

## FURTHER AFIELD...

The promise of good chocolate will take us far and wide at *Homes & Gardens* and the opening of Chococo's second shop, in historic Winchester (the first is in Swanage), is worth the trip. Claire and Andy Burnet's renowned chocolate brand has earned numerous accolades in the past decade, and this colourful café and shop on the high street is the perfect place to sample handmade chocolates, freshly baked cakes and sundaes made with Purbeck ice cream.

Chococo, 152 High Street, Winchester, Hampshire  
SO23 9AY, 01929 421777, [chococo.co.uk](http://chococo.co.uk) ▶



# LONDON *notebook*

## À LA CARTE

Simon Rogan (right), Michelin-starred chef and the brains behind Cumbria's glorious L'Enclume, is taking the reins at Claridge's restaurant this spring, combining his formidable culinary skills with the hotel's highly respected heritage. Given his dedication to hedgerow foraging and seasonal British produce, much of which is grown at his farm in Cartmel, Cumbria, Simon is sure to be featuring a few unexpected ingredients on the menu.



Claridge's, Brook Street, W1K 4HR, 020 7629 8860, claridges.co.uk.

## SIMPLY BETTER

John Lewis of Hungerford's recently revamped Fulham showroom features its latest range of British handmade painted furniture, including the new Pure kitchen collection (right) with sleek, retro lines.

John Lewis of Hungerford, 156/158 Wandsworth Bridge Road, SW6 2UH, 020 7371 5603, john-lewis.co.uk.



## ROSY OUTLOOK

Christina Strutt's whimsical floral fabrics strike a quintessentially British note and can now be viewed in all their glory at her new Chelsea shops. Set side-by-side, one carries a full interiors collection, including fabric by the metre, cushions and homewares, while the adjoining shop showcases the company's renowned fashion pieces.

Cabbages & Roses, 121/123 Sydney Street, SW3 6NR, 020 3696 1310, cabbagesandroses.com.

**TRES CHICK** We can't help but fall in love with Melt's cute Breton Hen's Eggs – each handmade striped chocolate treasure sits in a Cornishware eggcup. They're a fun, edible interpretation of the fashionable Breton stripe and the most elegant of Easter treats. £8.50 each.

59 LEDBURY ROAD, W11 2AA, 020 7727 5030; SELFRIDGES, 400 OXFORD STREET, W1A 1AB, MELTCHOCOLATES.COM.



## SWEET DREAMS

Since 2009, those in the know have been making a beeline for Philippe Conticini's contemporary Paris-based patisseries, which present the pastry chef's inimitable viennoiserie and gateaux. At long last, Londoners are now able to get a Conticini fix closer to home, including modern reworkings of classic French pastries and reinventions of traditional British puddings. Perfect for an Easter feast.

La Pâtisserie des Rêves, 43 Marylebone High Street, W1U 4PU, lapatisserie-desreves.com.



# LONDON *notebook*

## LONDON LIFE

Known for its covetable leather bags and stylish accessories, Osprey London arrives in the city this spring with an expanded range including fashion, jewellery and smart homewares, from decadent cashmere blankets to candles and diffusers (right, from £24).



**Osprey London, Regent Street, SW1Y 4NQ, [ospreylondon.com](http://ospreylondon.com).**

## SHIP TO SHORE

Luxury yachts are generally associated with balmy climes and pristine beaches, but the capital is soon to be treated to its own permanently moored super yacht in the form of the luxurious 138-room Sunborn floating hotel, located at the western end of the Royal Victoria Dock. Relaxing river views are promised from the high-end restaurant, while the proximity of Canary Wharf, the O2 Arena and ExCel London makes this the ideal spot to step aboard, from late March.

**Sunborn London, Western Gateway, Royal Victoria Dock, E16 1XL, [sunbornlondon.com](http://sunbornlondon.com).**



## MEAT AND GREET

Informal sharing-style dining has long been at the heart of Mark Hix's food philosophy, and is nowhere more in evidence than at his latest City venture, Hixter. Drop in for hearty chicken and steak dishes plus a heady combination of New-York inspired cocktails and artwork by Tracey Emin, Tim Noble and Gary Webb.

**Hixter, 9a Devonshire Square, EC2M 4AE, 020 7220 9498, [hixter.co.uk](http://hixter.co.uk).**

# This month

## THE PLACE TO EAT...



**Rabot 1745, 2/4 Bedale Street, Borough Market, SE1 9AL, 020 7378 8226, [rabot1745.com](http://rabot1745.com).**

The sweet-toothed may have claimed the cocoa bean as their own for the past few centuries, but its mystical flavours have been infusing savoury dishes for more than 3,000 years. It's this concept on which Angus Thirlwell and Peter Harris, founders of the Hotel Chocolat chain, have based their new Borough Market eatery – a West Indian-style plantation house with a 21st-century twist where, sweet or savoury, the cocoa nib is very much the star of the show. Rabot 1745 is sister to the pair's Boucan restaurant on St Lucia and its creative dishes, including cacao marinated beef and market chowder with a rack of nib crackers, are all underpinned with the subtlest of cocoa notes. Don't miss the divine Rabot 1745 Mousse Collection to finish.

## THE PLACE TO VISIT...

**John Jones Project Space, John Jones Art Building, 4 Morris Place, N4 3GJ, 020 7281 5439, [johnjones.co.uk](http://johnjones.co.uk).**

Developed by John Jones, the family-run picture framers established in the 1960s, this new public arts building, opening in April, promises a large exhibition space, café and artists' studios as well as talks, seminars and workshops. John Jones has grown into an established fine arts consultancy with its own permanent collection – visit this vibrant space to view a host of works.

## THE THING TO DO...

### miNiATURE

**The Strand Gallery, 32 John Adam Street, WC2N 6BP, 020 7839 4942, [thestrangallery.co.uk](http://thestrangallery.co.uk).**

From 6-8 March, don't miss this intriguing combination of the latest 3D printing with traditional model making techniques and garden design. Curated by Andrew Fisher Tomlin, Tom Harfleet and Kajsa Björne, with work by leading designers including RHS Chelsea Flower Show award winners John Brookes and Sarah Eberle, this exhibition brings model making right up to date. Free entry. ■